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DAILY

Kabul 14° Sunny | Kandahar 22° Sunny | Herat 21° Sunny | Jalalabad 23° Sunny | Mazar-e-Sharif 18° Sunny | Bamyan -2° Mostly cloudy

Mawlavi Kabir urges UN to assist Afghan refugees



KABUL: Mawlavi Abdul Kabir, the acting Minister of Refugees and Repatriations, met with Motia Maskun, Deputy Director of the International Organization for Migration in Afghanistan, urging international organizations to provide necessary assistance to Afghan refugees, according to a statement from the ministry on Saturday.

Both sides discussed the situation of Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons and the forced deportation of Afghan migrants from the neighboring countries, the statement said.

Expressing concern regarding the mass deportation of Afghan migrants from the neighboring countries, Motia Maskun said the international organizations have been making efforts to provide Afghan refugees with essential assistance.

Mawlavi Abdul Kabir also stated that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has been doing its best to permanently solve challenges facing Afghan refugees in the neighboring countries.

The Kabul Times

German company to invest $400 million in Afghanistan's road-building projects



KABUL: A representative of the German company Trustco Middle East, in a meeting with Mohammad Isa Sani, the acting Minister of Public Works, expressed readiness to invest $400 million in Afghanistan's road construction sector, the ministry said in a statement the other day.

The company's representative said that they intend to invest $400 million in Afghanistan's road construction sector in exchange for access to the country's mineral resources, according to the statement.

Meanwhile, Minister Sani emphasized that the Ghor-Herat and Badghis-Faryab roads are among the most important in the country, and the ministry plans to construct them.

It should be said that road construction is vital for fostering economic development and well-maintained roads facilitate the movement of goods and services, enabling businesses to thrive and expand their reach.

They provide access to markets, reduce transportation costs, and promote trade between districts, provinces and countries. **The Kabul Times**

Work begins on four commercial complexes in Kunduz

The complexes will be constructed on 60 acres of land by the Emirati Company Spin Zar, the statement said, adding that with the construction of these commercial developments, job opportunities will be provided for tens of thousands of individuals within the province.



KABUL Construction work on four commercial complexes valued at 822 million Afghani has been kicked off in the country's northern province of Kunduz, the provincial governor's press office said in a statement Saturday.

The complexes will be constructed on 60 acres of land by the Emirati Company Spin Zar, the statement said, adding that with the construction of these commercial developments, job opportunities will be provided for tens of thousands of individuals within the province.

Construction of these commercial complexes marks the initial phase of the master plan's implementation in Kunduz city, which also encompasses the establishment of an amusement park and the construction of over a kilometer of road.

A few weeks ago, construction work worth 1.5 billion Afghani also started on a commercial complex in the province encompassing 8 markets with 6 floors, more than 1,500 shops, fuel stations, and other necessary facilities and requirements.

The Kabul Times

IEA-MoFA statement regarding border demarcation agreement between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan



The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan welcomes the border demarcation agreement signed between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan and views the resolution of this long-standing issue through mutual understanding as a positive step toward regional stability, economic growth, and confidence-building

The Islamic Emirate has always supported peace, dialogue, and regional cooperation, and believes that this agreement will open a new chapter for enhanced stability and sustained cooperation in Central Asia.

Healthcare delivery top priority, minister



KABUL: Mawlavi Noor Jalal Jalali, the acting Minister of Public Health of the Islamic Emirate, said the other day, that providing Afghans with healthcare services is one the top priorities of his-led ministry.

Mawlavi Jalali made the remarks during a meeting with Abdul Samad Javid, the Governor of Ghazni, according to a statement from the ministry. The meeting focused on key issues such as the completion of the remaining construction work of the regional hospital, enhancing the quality and accessibility of healthcare services, securing an increased budget allocation for the upcoming fiscal year, and addressing existing challenges in healthcare facilities.

The Governor of Ghazni underscored the urgency of expediting the completion of the regional hospital, boosting financial resources for the next year, and resolving ongoing obstacles to ensure adequate medical care for patients in the province.

Mawlavi Jalali assured that the hospital's pending construction work would resume, healthcare services would be expanded, and existing challenges would be systematically addressed in the province.

The Kabul Times

Facilities provided for foreign airlines operating in Afghanistan, official



KABUL: The spokesman of the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation, Hikmatullah Asifi, said the other day that necessary facilities have been provided for foreign airline companies operating in Afghanistan.

Currently, two domestic and seven foreign airline companies are operating in the country, he said, adding that Fly Dubai, Air Arabia, Turkish Airlines, Mahan Air, Taban Air, Iran Tour, and Iran Air are among the foreign airlines that have resumed their flights to Afghanistan following the return of the Islamic Emirate to power.

"The Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation is committed to providing the necessary facilities in this regard. Work is ongoing to ensure that global airline companies operating in Afghanistan receive the same level of facilities available in other international airports," the spokesperson said.

Asifi emphasized that Afghanistan currently has direct flights to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Turkiye, China, Iran, and Pakistan.

"The Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation has given special attention to this matter. The available resources have been utilized, but further efforts are needed to enhance facilities, expand airports, and improve terminals".

According to the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation, Afghanistan currently has 27 operational airports, five of which are international.

The Kabul Times

Indian businessmen asked to attend forthcoming exhibition of Imam Abu Hanifa in Afghanistan



KABUL: Mohammad Yunus Mohmand, the First Deputy Chairman of the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment, during his visit to Delhi, asked the Indian businessmen to attend the Imam Abu Hanifa exhibition in Afghanistan next year, the ACCI said in a statement Saturday.

Mohmand also met with the officials of the Pragati Maidan Exhibition Complex of India and discussed the participation of Afghan businessmen in this exhibition, the statement said.

He visited India to hold talks on expanding trade and transit cooperation between the two friend countries, the statement added.

In line with Afghanistan's balanced and economy-focused foreign policy, the Islamic Emirate aims to strengthen political and economic ties with India as a significant regional and economic partner.

Also, India's diplomacy with Afghanistan continues its decade-old practice of strengthening bilateral relations in various fields and helping Afghanistan in the implementation of development projects.

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Food for thought

Today's generation guarantees our bright future

Economic projects ongoing successfully

Economic development is at a promising pace in the country after the reestablishment of the Islamic Emirate nearly four years ago.

Hundreds of uplift projects have been implemented, and hundreds of others are underway countrywide.

Work on the Qush Tepa project, CASA-1000, and hundreds of other projects have been started parts of which are completed.

Also, in the current solar year, 252 projects worth nearly 74 billion Afghani have been approved to be launched countrywide.

According to officials, these infrastructure projects are in the sectors of transportation, energy, health, industry, water management, and education, the fund of which has been sourced from domestic revenues, providing direct and indirect job opportunities to thousands of citizens.

This is another big achievement of The National Procurement Authority which has approved 252 projects this year, with a total cost of nearly 74 billion Afghani. These projects cover water management, electricity, infrastructure, industry, transportation, education, and health sectors.

The implementation of various projects is crucial for Afghanistan's economic growth and the creation of unemployment in the country.

As experts believe, this is a major achievement not only in terms of road construction but also in providing job opportunities for Afghans. Next year, investment in agriculture and electricity should also be made to create more employment opportunities as in Afghanistan's economic system, the more we can invest in infrastructure projects related to the country's foundation, the more effective it will be.

Since its power resumption four years ago, the Islamic Emirate has made significant achievements and addressed the country's economic challenges, including paying the salaries of government employees, which are funded from domestic revenue even after the reduction of international humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.

The international community should understand that Afghanistan, under the Islamic system, can do more for its people and is capable of restoring a good government independently.

So, the current government deserves recognition, and the world, particularly the Islamic countries, should step up in this respect.

The rewards for performing good deeds during Ramadan

We must maximize every moment of our time, given the infinite possibilities for reward and blessing that Ramadan can offer to us. Undoubtedly, we are all privileged to be given the opportunity to partake in Ramadan once again.

As we enter another Ramadan, it is the best time to give thanks to Allah (SWT) for the blessings He has given us. However, it is important to ensure that we are fully prepared to make the most of this auspicious Ramadan month by performing good deeds.

We must maximize every moment of our time, given the infinite possibilities for reward and blessing that Ramadan can offer to us. Undoubtedly, we are all privileged to be given the opportunity to partake in Ramadan once again.

As we prepare to pray, recite, and worship during Ramadan, it is also important to remember why we should be performing good deeds all year round.

Although the rewards for such acts are multiplied during Ramadan, and on Laylatul Qadr in particular, this is the perfect reminder of how we should lead our everyday lives throughout the year.

It is important to practice our faith and lead by example, strengthening our relationship with Allah (SWT) and doing all that we can to be the best we can possibly be. Some examples of how we should be practicing in our daily lives include the following.

Fasting: Fasting is one of the most important ways in which we can show our devotion and dedication to Allah (SWT) during Ramadan. Fasting involves far more than simply abstaining from eating and drinking between the hours of sunrise and sunset.

Those participating in the fast must abstain from committing sinful acts and thinking impure thoughts in order to fast with the mind and spirit as well as the body.



During the fast, we focus on good deeds in Ramadan and purifying ourselves. We remember our brothers and sisters around the world who do not have the privilege of regular food and nourishment as we do.

By complying with the wishes of Allah (SWT), completing the fast, and sharing our wealth and good fortune with others, we can gain substantial rewards.

Taqwa: "Indeed, he who fears Allah and is patient, then indeed, Allah does not allow to be lost the reward of those who do good."

(Qur'an 12:90)

We must strive to attain taqwa throughout our lives in order to repent and worship Allah (SWT) as He commands us. It is important to understand exactly why we must continually work to achieve closeness to Allah (SWT) in order to fulfill His wishes. Indeed, the reward of taqwa is better than all the joys of this world.

Obedience: Obedience and discipline are additional good deeds that we should work to adopt during Ramadan.

They are linked to the act of fasting, as we must remain pure and selfless in order to cleanse and purify our minds and bodies at this holiest time.

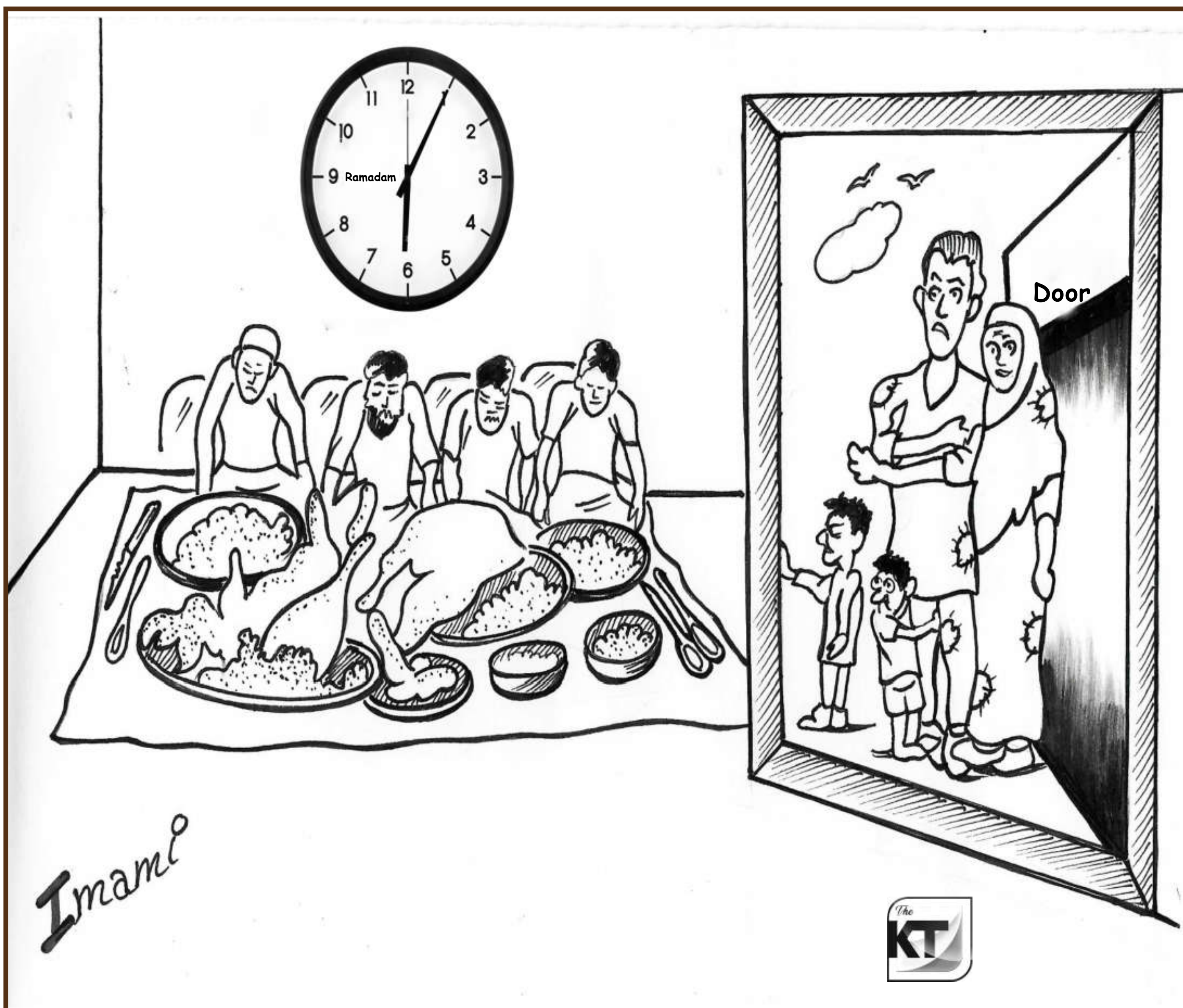
By abstaining from such things, we are following the wishes of Allah (SWT) and being given a constant reminder of the importance of remaining humble.

Ramadan is one of the greatest symbols of obedience, and as a result, the rewards are great. During Ramadan, we can obtain closeness with Allah (SWT) as well as be granted countless blessings and rewards both now and in the Hereafter.

Giving: If you are eligible and choose to pay your Zakat during Ramadan, you will already be familiar with the rewards that giving to those less fortunate can bring during this Holy month. Donations during Ramadan will help those most in need – whether it is vulnerable orphans, families in extreme poverty, or innocent people suffering as a result of conflict or natural disasters.

This Ramadan, please consider joining our generous donors and give what you can to help your brothers and sisters around the world enjoy a blessed month – one of the best rewards of all. May Allah (SWT) accept our humble fasting, prayers, and worship.

Mohammad



Work anywhere, rest nowhere; the remote work trade-off

The rise of remote work has reshaped the traditional work environment, offering employees the ability to work from anywhere.

While this flexibility has brought undeniable benefits, it has also introduced new challenges.



The blurred line between professional and personal life, the constant availability expectations, and the difficulty of truly disconnecting have raised concerns about employee well-being.

This topic examines the advantages and drawbacks of remote work, with a particular focus on the trade-off between flexibility and rest.

Remote work has transformed how businesses operate, allowing employees to escape long commutes and rigid office schedules.

Flexibility and autonomy allow employees to choose their work environment, schedule, and pace, leading to increased job satisfaction.

Many workers report higher efficiency and focus without the distractions of a traditional office setting.

Employers and employees benefit from cost savings on office space, commuting expenses, and daily expenditures. Companies also have the ability to hire top talent regardless of geographic location, fostering diversity and innovation.

Employees often experience an improved work-life balance, gaining more time for family, hobbies, and personal development.

Despite these benefits, remote work comes with significant trade-offs, particularly regarding work-life balance and mental well-being.

The expectation to be constantly available blurs the boundary between work and personal time, leading to burnout.

Unlike an office, where leaving the workplace signifies the end of the workday, remote workers struggle to disconnect when their home doubles as their office.

Many remote employees tend to work longer hours than their office counterparts due to an absence of clear start and end times.

The lack of in-person interactions can lead to feelings of loneliness and detachment from the company culture.

Without a clear division between work and leisure spaces, many remote workers find it hard to truly relax, affecting their mental and physical health.

To maximize the benefits of remote work while mitigating its downsides, both employers and employees must adopt effective strategies.

Establishing designated work hours and sticking to them helps prevent overworking and ensures time for personal life.

Creating a dedicated workspace within the home can provide a psychological barrier between work and leisure.

Employers should promote breaks and respect off-hours to prevent burnout and mental fatigue.

Organizations should define clear expectations regarding response times and work availability to prevent employees from feeling obligated to be online at all times.

Virtual team-building activities and occasional in-person meetings can help remote workers maintain a sense of community and engagement.

The remote work model is here to stay, offering unparalleled flexibility and opportunities. However, without proper boundaries, it can lead to exhaustion and an inability to truly rest. Organizations and employees must work together to create a sustainable remote work culture—one that balances productivity with well-being.

By implementing best practices and fostering a culture of respect for personal time, the future of remote work can be both rewarding and sustainable.

Mukhtar Safi

A review of Afghanistan's political and economic achievements

Since Afghanistan gained independence and freedom and achieved successes against its aggressors, the country has achieved a high status in terms of prestige and has earned a good position in the region and the world. There is no doubt that it is all because of jihad and the Islamic holy struggles, which has helped achieve remarkable successes.



Today's Afghanistan is a proud and honorable country, moving forward with freedom and peace to prosperity, and expanding relations with the world.

The nation and the world are witnessing amazing developments and advancements in the country.

During the era of the past regimes, Afghanistan gained something through dealing, occupation, war, and destruction. Today, it is standing on its own feet, and does not bow down to any foreign countries. It has good opportunities to move forward as its government independently follows its foreign policy.

Today, most countries and some world powers are keen to have good political and economic relations with Afghanistan and are even ready to somehow recognize the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. These days, we are witnessing that due to the constructive consultations and programs of the leadership of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and the fruitful efforts of the country's Foreign Minister, the world's interaction with the Afghan government is expanding, and Russia, which is one of the world's greatest powers, has called for the international community's interaction and cooperation with the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

China, one of the world's economic powers, has also asked the UN Security Council to lift the travel ban on high-ranking officials of the Islamic Emirate.

Germany is also looking for ways to begin engaging with Afghanistan. Similarly, Oman has entered into bilateral engagement with Afghanistan and is keen to engage with the Islamic Emirate.

These achievements could have profound and significant impacts on the country's political and economic situation and put Afghanistan in a higher position in every area.

With the improvement of the overall security situation across the country, various transit routes have been opened, which is another economic achievement for Afghanistan.

The reactivation of the Lapis Lazuli route, the development and expansion of Chabahar port, and the extension of railway networks to Central Asian countries has further increased Afghanistan's importance to the countries of the region.

These projects not only increase Afghanistan's economic value, but also encourage regional countries to cooperate with each other.

Afghanistan, as a hub of regional cooperation, is not only serving its own interests, but also providing opportunities for prosperity and development for the countries of the region and world.

If everything goes smoothly, Afghanistan will become the heart of political and economic relations not only for South and Central Asian, but for the whole world in the near future, ushering in a new wave of peace, stability, and development among the countries of the region and world.

The current political and economic atmosphere indicates that Afghanistan will soon achieve further progress as well as recognition and achieve greater and more surprising victories.

Fida Mohammad

Wakhan Corridor to serve as crucial economic & trade route between Afghanistan and China

Afghanistan Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development has signed a 143-million AFG agreement with a private firm for the graveling of the second phase of the Wakhan road in northeastern Badakhshan province.

The road spans 71 kilometers with a width of up to 10 meters. Practical construction work will begin once weather conditions improve, and the project will cost 143 million AFG.

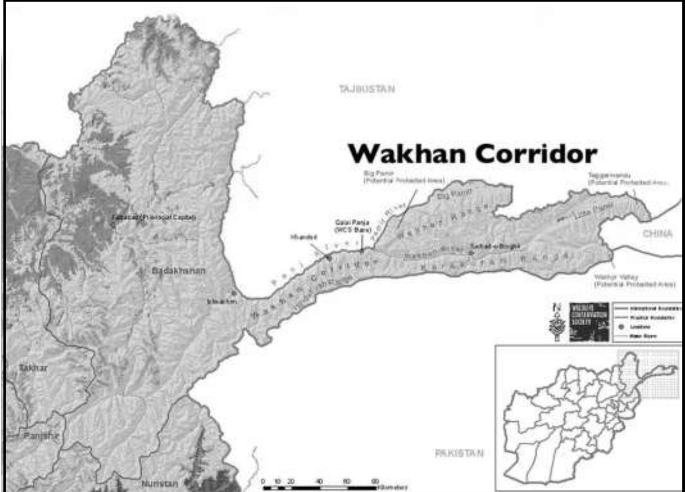
The contract for the first phase was signed last year for 181 million AFG, and construction work on the first phase is still in progress. The total length of both phases is 121 kilometers, and the entire project is expected to be completed by early 2026. Once completed, the road will serve as a crucial economic and trade route between Afghanistan and China.

According to the country's Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, the first phase of the Wakhan road runs from Bazhai Gonbad area to the Chinese border, while the second phase extends from Bazhai Gonbad to the Broghil area of Wakhan. In early February of the current year, acting Minister of Public Works, Mullah Mohammad Isa Sani discussed Wakhan Road with Zhao Xing, the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Kabul.

In the meeting, both sides also discussed the Trans-Afghan railway that is expected to start from the capital of Uzbekistan, Tashkent, and run through major cities in Afghanistan to Hyderabad city in Pakistan.

They also stressed on expanding bilateral trade and economic cooperation, as well as implementing reconstruction projects between the two countries. With the re-establishment of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) and the improvement of the overall security situation across Afghanistan, trade and economic relations have increased considerably between Afghanistan and countries in the region, particularly China.

Afghanistan wants to increase its trade and economic relations with China; therefore, the Islamic Emirate has started construction work on Wakhan Road, extending



from the Wakhan district of Badakhshan to the Chinese border.

With the opening and completion of this route, Afghanistan and China will get direct access to each other's markets. This can reduce the distance and further lower the cost of the imports and exports of commercial goods between the two countries. With the opening and completion of the Wakhan Corridor, trade and bilateral relations between the two countries will further increase. It has been reported that the Afghan and Chinese governments have already started talks over the commencement of traffic through the Wakhan Corridor, a narrow strip of territory in northeastern Badakhshan stretching 350 km to China.

The construction of the road that directly links the two countries is considered as significant as it can somehow reduce Afghanistan's reliance on some regional countries for transit trade.

There are hopes that the road will be opened for transit trade as construction work is seriously underway.

The direct access of Afghanistan to China through this road will enable Afghanistan to carry out its entire trade of over $1.3 billion with China through this route. In the meantime, the opening of this route will also be beneficial to China as it can further export its products to Afghanistan and other markets in the region.

The construction of this road will also benefit other countries as Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran and Pakistan as it creates a significant opportunity for increasing trade and economic activity in the region.

This route can further facilitate the trade of various commercial goods between the respective countries. Statistics show that in the past two and half years, Afghanistan's economic and trade relations with all countries in the region have been expanding for the past two and half years.

Sayed Sharif

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USD	GBP	INR	PKR	EUR	IRR	AED
01	01	1000	1000	01	1000	01
AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN
69.80	90.34	803	243	76.24	01.268	19.29



Afghanistan beach soccer team defeats Saudi Arabia in friendly match

The Afghanistan national beach soccer team secured an impressive victory against Saudi Arabia in a friendly match held in Thailand. The match ended with a narrow 3-2 win for Afghanistan, marking a significant achievement for the team.

This friendly encounter served as an important test for both teams as they prepared for upcoming international competitions. The Afghan squad demonstrated remarkable skill and determination, managing to overcome a strong Saudi team. Despite the intense competition, Afghanistan maintained its composure and capitalized on key opportunities to secure the win.

The match was played in Thailand, a country known for hosting high-profile beach soccer events. Both teams displayed a high level of performance, with Saudi Arabia also putting up a strong fight. However, Afghanistan's tactical play and resilience ultimately led them to victory.



This win is a morale booster for the Afghan team as they continue to make progress in the sport. The victory highlights Afghanistan's growing presence in beach soccer, a sport that is gaining popularity across the region. The team's success in this match could serve as motivation for future tournaments and official competitions.

Afghanistan's beach soccer program has been making steady improvements in recent years, with increasing support from the country's football federation and sports authorities. The victory against Saudi Arabia adds to their list of achievements and strengthens their confidence for future challenges.

As the Afghan team celebrates this victory, fans and sports enthusiasts remain hopeful for more success in upcoming events. The team's determination and performance in this friendly match reflect their potential to compete at higher levels in international beach soccer. **The Kabul Times**

Afghanistan to host international Kurash championship in Herat

The head of Afghanistan's National Kurash and Sambo Federation, Sayed Mahmood Zia Dashti, has announced that an international Kurash wrestling



championship will be held in Herat province next year.

This major sporting event is expected to attract participants from more than ten countries.

The upcoming tournament will serve as a significant platform for promoting Kurash, a traditional form of wrestling that has deep historical roots in Central Asia. Afghanistan has been actively working to develop and promote this sport, and hosting an international championship will be a milestone for the country's sports sector.

According to the federation, the event will not only showcase Afghanistan's capability to host international competitions but will also provide local athletes with an opportunity to compete against top wrestlers from around the world.

The participation of over ten countries will add to the competitive spirit of the tournament, making it a high-profile event in the region's sports calendar.

Herat, one of Afghanistan's key provinces, is set to become the center of attention for Kurash enthusiasts.

Organizers believe that the championship will contribute to the popularity of the sport in Afghanistan and encourage more young athletes to take an interest in traditional wrestling.

The Afghan National Kurash and Sambo Federation has been actively working on expanding the reach of the sport by organizing national and international-level competitions. With growing support from sports authorities, the federation aims to strengthen Afghanistan's presence in the global Kurash community.

As the country prepares for this international event, Afghan athletes are expected to train intensively to represent their nation with pride.

The tournament in Herat will be a crucial opportunity for Afghanistan to demonstrate its sporting potential on an international stage.

The Kabul Times

Mohamed Salah wins Premier League player of the month for seventh time

Liverpool's star forward, Mohamed Salah, has been named the Premier League's Player of the



Month for the seventh time. This latest achievement places him among the league's all-time greats, as he now shares the record with Harry Kane and Sergio Agüero.

Salah's consistent performances and outstanding contributions to Liverpool's success have once again earned him this prestigious award. The Egyptian forward has been a key player for the Reds, delivering exceptional displays throughout the month and playing a vital role in his team's victories. His goal-scoring ability, creativity, and leadership on the field continue to make him one of the most influential players in the league.

With this latest award, Salah cements his legacy as one of the Premier League's top performers. He now stands alongside Harry Kane and Sergio Agüero, both of whom also won the Player of the Month award seven times during their careers in England's top flight. This milestone further highlights Salah's impact in the league and his consistency over the years.

Since joining Liverpool, Salah has been a crucial part of the team's success, helping them win major trophies, including the Premier League and the UEFA Champions League. His remarkable individual achievements, such as winning multiple Golden Boots and setting goal-scoring records, have solidified his reputation as one of the best players of his generation.

Liverpool fans and football enthusiasts worldwide continue to celebrate Salah's achievements, recognizing his contributions to both his club and the sport. As the season progresses, he will be aiming to maintain his top form and help Liverpool compete for major honors once again.

The Kabul Times

China proposes five points on proper settlement of Iranian nuclear issue

BEIJING: China proposed five points on the proper settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue, as Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Ryabkov Sergey Alexeevich and Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi in Beijing on Friday.

First, stay committed to peaceful settlement of disputes through political and diplomatic means, and oppose the use of force and illegal sanctions, said Wang, who is also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee.

He added that all parties should uphold the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, work actively to create conditions for the resumption of dialogue and negotiation, and refrain from actions that might escalate the situation.

Second, stay committed to balancing rights and responsibilities, and take a holistic approach to the goals of nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, said Wang.

He noted that Iran should continue honoring its commitment to not developing nuclear weapons and that all other parties should fully respect Iran's right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy as a State Party to the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

Third, stay committed to the framework of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) as the basis for new consensus, said the Chinese foreign minister.

China hopes that all parties will work toward the same direction and resume dialogue and negotiation as early as possible,



Wang said, adding that the United States should demonstrate political sincerity and return to talks at an early date.

Fourth, stay committed to promoting cooperation through dialogue, and oppose pressing for intervention by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), Wang stressed.

He said that under the current situation, hasty intervention by the UNSC will not help build confidence or bridge differences among the relevant parties. Initiating the snapback mechanism would undo years of diplomatic efforts, and must be handled with caution, he pointed out.

Fifth, stay committed to a step-by-step and reciprocal approach, and seek consensus through consultation, said Wang.

"History has proven that acting from a position of strength would not lead to the key to resolving difficult issues," said Wang.

"Upholding the principle of mutual respect is the only viable path to finding the greatest common ground that accommodates the legitimate concerns of all parties and reaching a solution that meets the expectation of the international community," he noted. Wang said that as a permanent member of the UNSC and a party to the JCPOA, China will stay in communication and coordination with all relevant parties, actively promote talks for peace, and play a constructive role in realizing early resumption of talks. **Xinhua**

Russian captain in North Sea ship collision charged with manslaughter



British police have charged the Russian captain of a cargo ship that crashed into a United States fuel tanker in the North Sea this week with manslaughter and gross negligence over the death of a crew member.

Vladimir Motin, 59, from Primorsky in Saint Petersburg, Russia, did not apply for bail when he appeared at Hull Magistrates Court on Saturday and was remanded in police custody.

On Monday, the Portuguese-flagged Solong container vessel, of which Motin was the captain, hit the Stena Immaculate tanker at full speed while it was anchored off the coast of Hull in northeastern England. The Stena Immaculate was carrying US military jet fuel.

During the crash, which caused massive fires and explosions, one of the Solong's crew members, 38-year-old Filipino national Mark Angelo Pernia, went missing and is now "presumed" dead.

"Extensive searches were carried out by HM Coastguard to locate the missing crew member, now presumed deceased," Humberside police said in a statement.

"The family are being supported by specialist trained officers and our thoughts remain with them at this difficult time," it added.

The remaining 36 crew members from both vessels survived the incident and were brought to shore.

On Friday, the Russian embassy in London said on its Telegram channel that its diplomats had held a "detailed telephone conversation with the captain of the vessel" on Thursday.

"According to him, he feels well. The Russian citizen has been provided with an interpreter and a lawyer, with whom our employees also maintain constant contact," the embassy wrote, adding that it was in "close contact with the British competent authorities." The coastguard said on Thursday that salvage companies boarded the two vessels to carry out initial damage assessments, as the Stena Immaculate remains anchored at the point of the crash and the Solong drifted south of the site. **aljazeera**

Non-essential helicopters banned from around Reagan airport after crash

The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has permanently restricted non-essential helicopter operations around Reagan National Airport following a deadly mid-air collision with an American Airlines regional jet in January.

The change is an attempt to improve safety around the airport, which is just outside of the nation's capital in Washington DC.

In January, a US Army Black Hawk helicopter with a crew of three collided with an American Airlines jet carrying 64 people. Both aircraft crashed near the airport. All 67 aboard were killed.

The FAA's announcement followed the release of a preliminary report from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigating the crash.

The FAA also announced on Friday it will eliminate helicopter and fixed-wing mixed traffic by the airport.

It said it was evaluating other routes for helicopters, which are commonly used in Washington.

The new restrictions will allow helicopters to only fly through the airport's airspace on urgent matters - such as for life-saving medical reasons, priority law enforcement or presidential transport - but it aims to keep them a distance away from airplanes, according to the agency. **bbc**